

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9 with the following paragraph:

This object is achieved, according to the present invention, in that the respective permanent magnet is divided at at least one location and spaced apart there. The division may be formed by a radially extending slit which is defined by opposing faces of the magnet which are spaced apart, i.e., not in contact with each other. The tangential supporting force occurring in an undivided permanent magnet is eliminated by this division. The divided permanent magnet can, as a result, be impinged upon by the binding band with a substantially lower pressure in order to overcome the gaps. The consequence is either that substantially larger centrifugal forces can act on the permanent magnets without causing the latter to expand and detach from the hub or to shift axially, or that the preload can be made smaller, thus reducing the risk of destruction of the binding band or the magnet.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 11 with the following paragraph:

The invention is illustrated in more detail, with reference to an exemplifying embodiment, in the Figure, which is a cross section through the magnetic bearing element according to the present invention. A hub 1 is surrounded by an annular magnet 2 that comprises radially extending slits 4 offset 90 degrees from one another. The slits 4 divide the annular magnet 2 into a plurality of spaced apart segments that are not in contact with adjacent segments. Adjoining this annular magnet 2, which is split into four segments, is a further annular magnet 3. The latter is likewise split into four segments by four radially extending slits 4 offset 90 degrees from one another. Slits 4 of annular magnet 3 are arranged with an offset of 45 degrees from slits 4 of annular magnet 2. A binding band 5 is mounted onto annular magnets 2, 3 and hub 1 with a preload, ensuring that annular magnets 2, 3, as well as annular magnet 2 and hub 1, are in contact against one another with an inwardly directed force.